harness the power of IT towards socio-economic changes for rural and tribal masses.

- Setting up of Media Lab Asia for reaching the benefits of ICT technologies to rural and poor people. Media Lab Asia's research will focus on three technical initiatives namely—Bits for all, World Computer and Tomorrow's tools.
- Established 4 Samadhan Kendras in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh under a pilot scheme for the benefit of rural masses.

2. Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) has implemented the following schemes:

- Funds have been provided to States/UTs for installation of computers at District and Tehsils/Taluk Centres and so far 582 districts and 2970 tehsils/taluks/blocks of the country have been brought under the programme.
- Under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, MRD provides assistance to the States and UTs for procurement of Computer Hardware, Office automation packages, training of manpower and development of application software for computerization up to the division level officers of the line departments.
- MRD has undertaken a pilot project for providing V-SAT connectivity to 15 District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) for providing internet facilities and a Web based software for poverty alleviation and rural development programmes in 15 districts spread over 11 States.

(c) Does not arise.

Pre-paid and post-paid mobile services in Karnataka

1936. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons have, so far, joined pre-paid and post-paid mobile services in Karnataka;

(b) whether it has come to Government's notice that SIM cards for pre-paid customers are not available in Karnataka for the last three-four months;

(c) the steps taken to supply pre-paid SIM cards to mobile phone users in the State;

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the BSNL's mobile phone services in Karnataka; and

(e) how many base stations are proposed to be set up in this regard in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) 1,83,000 pre-paid and 90,000 post-paid subscribers are using Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited's Mobile Service in Karnataka.

(b) Due to capacity constraints in Karnataka, the distribution of pre-paid SIM cards has been temporarily suspended.

(c) and (d) The pre-paid cards are being made available wherever capacities exists and procurement action taken for expanding the services in the State by additional 2.75 lac lines.

(e) Sixty more Base stations are presently under installation in Bangalore city in Karnataka State.

Penalty Clause in Telecom Licences

1937. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of penalty clauses with respect to telecom licences to make them more stringent and to make the companies comply with them;